

Message Text

SECRET

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72

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 PM-09 MC-02 L-03 EB-11 INR-09

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3540

S E C R E T JIDDA 1175

STADIS //

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJ: SAUDI ARABIAN NATIONAL GUARD MODERNIZATION

REF: STATE 050881

1. REPRESENTATIONS BY " BOSTICK" ARE FULLY CHARACTERISTIC OF RUTHLESS, QUESTIONABLE TACTICS ENGAGED IN BY MIDDLE EAST WHEELERS AND DEALERS WHEN THEY BECOME AWARE SUBSTANTIAL SUMS INVOLVED IN ARMS SALES. LITTON INDUSTRIES WOULD, WE THINK, BE WELL ADVISED PROCEED WITH MUCH CAUTION BEFORE UNDERTAKING ANY OBLIGATIONS IN PURSUIT OF DEALS DESCRIBED PARA ONE REFTEL. WE GATHER BOSTICK UNABLE PRESENT ANY EVIDENCE AT ALL HIS APPOINTMENT AS AUTHORIZED AGENT PRINCE ABDULLAH, IF LITTON WERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO BOSTICK' S PROPOSAL, LATTER WOULD SIMPLY USE LITTON' S EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AS SALEABLE ASSET WHICH HE WOULD THEN ENDEAVOR MARKET TO PRINCE ABDULLAH. CERTAINLY PRINCE ABDULLAH HAS NEVER MENTIONED TO US ANY DESIGNATION OF BOSTICK AS REPRESENTATIVE FOR BUSINESS MATTERS. IN SHORT, LIKE LITTON, WE HAVE NO INFORMATION WHATSOEVER SUPPORT BOSTICK' S CLAIM OF HIS SPECIAL ROLE.

2. FYI: WE SLIGHT CURIOUS AS TO WHY LITTON INVOLVED. LATTER MAY FOR SOME REASON SEEM PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE TARGET TO MIDDLE EAST WHEELERS AND DEALERS. NEA/ ARP OFFICERS MAY WISH BE BRIEFED BY COL. MALONEY ON HIGH PRESSURE
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TACTICS TO WHICH HE EXPOSED EMANATING FROM KHALID ALIREZA, SON OF RESPECTED JIDDA BUSINESSMAN, AHMED ALIREZA. KHALID APPARENTLY OVERREACHED ALL GROUNDS OF DISCRETION AND GOOD TASTE IN EFFORT PRESSURE MALONEY INTO GIVING LITTON SPECIAL PREFERENCE FOR SANG MODERNIZATION CONTRACT. MALONEY CAN , PERHAPS, INFORM YOU EXTENT TO WHICH ALIREZA ACTED WITH LITTON AUTHROIZATION. END FYI.

3. IN THEORY WE SUPPOSE ABDULLAH IS FREE TO GO OUTSIDE MOU ARRANGEMENTS AND PURCHASE WHATEVER HE LIKES. WHILE BOSTICK IS SUPPOSEDLY SEEKING SELL EQUIPMENT WHICH SANG COULD APPROPRIATELY UTILIZE, YET AT SAME TIME WOULD HOPE DOD MIGHT BE ABLE INFORM INQUIRING SUPPLIERS THAT WE MOST ANXIOUS SANG NOT RPT NOT ACQUIRE EQUIPMENT WHICH ABDULLAH MIGHT THEN ASK US TO INCLUDE IN MODERNIZATION PROGRAM DE-SPITE USG BEST JUDGEMENT THAT SUCH EQUIPMENT NOT APPROPRIATE. FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD SALESMEN TRY TO MARKET RELATED BUT USE-LESS COMMO GEAR, WOULD HOPE THIS COULD BE DIVERTED. WE WOULD BE PREPARED REQUEST ABDULLAH POLITELY CONSULT US BEFORE BUYING WRONG KING OF MATERIAL. IN OTHER WORDS, HOPE DOD CAN TAKE FIRM LINE DEFLECT INTINERANT COMMERCIAL MEN OR COMPANIES FROM SALES THAT MIGHT SIMPLY IMPEDE SANG PROGRAM. THACHER

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